

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented): A method for decoding a predetermined code word, wherein said code word comprises a number of positions having different values, comprising the steps of:

providing a processor comprising a central processing unit, memory, an input/output interface, and a data bus connecting said central processing unit to said memory and said input/output interface, said processor decoding a predetermined code word;

determining a calculation rule for a soft-output value for each position of said code word, each said position of said code being correlated with said soft-output value, according to the formula

$$L(U_i|y) = \ln \left(\frac{\sum_{c \in \Gamma^i(+1)} \exp \left(-\frac{(y-c)^T (y-c)}{2\sigma^2} \right)}{\sum_{c \in \Gamma^i(-1)} \exp \left(-\frac{(y-c)^T (y-c)}{2\sigma^2} \right)} \right), \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, K,$$

where

$L(U_i|y)$ is a safety measure (soft output) for the i -th position of the code word to be determined;

y is a demodulation result to be decoded;

c is a code word;

$\Gamma^i(\pm 1)$ are all code words for $u_i = \pm 1$; and

σ^2 is a variance (channel disturbance);

utilizing a characteristic of a convolutional code, in decoding of said code word, for determining said correlation of said individual positions of said code word from which steps follow of determining states in accordance with a shift register operation, and obtaining a trellis representation from these states;

calculating weights $\mu_q(s)$, for an arbitrary choice of $y \in \mathbb{R}^N$, for nodes (s, q) of said trellis representation by evaluating

$$\mu_q : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

$$s \mapsto \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{j=1}^n (y_{n(q-1)+j} - C_j(s))^2 \right)$$

for $q \in \{1, \dots, Q\}$.

determining mappings A_m by way of said trellis representation, running through said trellis representation in the natural direction, and calculating the term A_m by

$$A_m(s) = \mu_m(s) \sum_{t \in W(s, V_m)} A_{m-1}'(t), \quad \text{for } m \in \mathbb{N}$$

and a starting value

$$A_0(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & : \text{ for } s = s_0, \\ 0 & : \text{ else} \end{cases}$$

determining mappings B_m by way of said trellis representation, said trellis representation being run through in opposition to a predetermined direction, and calculating the term B_m by

$$B_m(s) = \mu_{Q-m+1}(s) \sum_{t \in T(s, V_{Q-m+2})} B_{m-1}(t), \quad \text{for } 1 \leq m \leq Q,$$

where

$$B_0(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & : \text{ for } s = s_0, \\ 0 & : \text{ else} \end{cases}$$

is determined for terminating the recursion; and

determining terms A_α^i by again running through said trellis representation taking into consideration said terms A_m and B_m already determined, according to a relation

$$A_\alpha^i(y) = \sum_{s \in S} A_{j-1}(s) \sum_{t \in T(s, V_j^*(\alpha))} B_{Q-j+1}(t),$$

$$\text{where } j = \left\lfloor \frac{i-1}{b} \right\rfloor + 1;$$

determining K positions of said code word according to

$$L(U_i|y) = \ln \left(\frac{A_{+1}^i(y)}{A_{-1}^i(y)} \right), \quad i = 1, \dots, K.$$

2. (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said convolutional code has binary state transitions, said method further comprising the steps of:

determining mappings A_m recursively by the equation

$$A_m(s) = \mu_m(s) \left(A_{m-1} \left(\hat{T}(+1, s) \right) + A_{m-1} \left(\hat{T}(-1, s) \right) \right), \quad \text{for } m \in \mathbb{N};$$

determining mappings B_m recursively by the equation

$$B_m(s) = \mu_{Q-m+1}(s) (B_{m-1}(T(s, +1)) + B_{m-1}(T(s, -1))),$$

for $1 \leq m \leq Q$; and

determining terms A_α^i , $i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$, $\alpha \in \{\pm 1\}$ according to the equation

$$A_\alpha^i(y) = \sum_{s \in S} A_{i-1}(s) B_{Q-i+1}(T(s, \alpha)).$$

3. (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a mobile radio network in which said decoding of a predetermined code word operates.

4. (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said mobile radio network is a GSM network.

5. (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined code word is a concatenated code word, said method further comprising the steps of:

providing said calculated soft-output values as input data of another decoder.

6. (canceled)